Death of inmates in Central jails

†1152. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards deaths of inmates in various Central jails of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained reasons behind such deaths;

(c) if so, whether National Human Rights Commission has submitted any report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) "Prisons" is a state subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 1993, all the State Governments/Union Territories are under obligation to report every death whether in police custody or in judicial custody within 24 hours of its occurrence irrespective of the cause of death of the deceased. The Commission calls for reports to find out if there is any omission or commission on the part of a public servant, which may have resulted in violation of human rights of the deceased. During the last three years 393 deaths in police custody and 4425 deaths in judicial custody were reported to NHRC by the State Governments/Union Territories. However, a large percentage of intimations received relate to natural deaths. During the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2007, the Commission has recommended interim relief/disciplinary action in 24 proven cases of custodial violence in police custody and 23 cases in judicial custody.

Naxalism and militancy in NE States

†1153. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of terrorism, naxalism and militancy are still going on in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have succeeded in checking the rise in the incidents of terrorism in various States during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) North Eastern States continue to suffer from militancy but no naxal violence has come to notice.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.